

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 891

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and specially recognize the Reverend
Jesse Jackson, Sr. on his lifetime of meritorious
service.

WHEREAS, the members of this body take great pride in recognizing those very special individuals who have become iconic figures and distinguished leaders in American society as a result of their many years of hard work, civil activism, and sheer courage in seeking to improve the lives of their fellow Americans and the many generations yet to come; and

WHEREAS, such an American icon is the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., who, as one of America's foremost political figures, has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and economic and social justice over the last fifty years; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Jesse Jackson visited Memphis on April 4, 2012, to pay respectful tribute to the anniversary of the tragic assassination of his mentor and dear friend, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis on April 4, 1968, and join in the City of Memphis' special commemoration; and

WHEREAS, known for bringing people together across lines of race, class, gender, and belief, Reverend Jackson has been called "the conscience of the nation" and "the great unifier," challenging America to establish just and humane priorities; and

WHEREAS, born on October 8, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina, he attended the University of Illinois on a football scholarship and later transferred to North Carolina A&T State University; and

WHEREAS, a participant in the historic Selma to Montgomery marches, he began his activism as a student leader in the sit-in movement and continued as a young organizer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as an assistant to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, he went on to found People United to Save Humanity (PUSH) in Chicago in 1971 and the National Rainbow Coalition in 1984, which merged into the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's two presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988 broke new ground in United States politics and inspired over three million people to register to vote and join the political process; and

WHEREAS, as a highly respected world leader, Reverend Jackson has acted many times as an international diplomat in sensitive situations, securing the release of U.S. Navy Lt. Robert Goodman from Syria in 1983 and twenty-two Americans being held in Cuba in 1984, and negotiating the release of three U.S. servicemen captured while performing peacekeeping duty for the United Nations during the Kosovo War in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a hallmark of Reverend Jackson's work has been his commitment to youth; he has visited thousands of high schools, colleges, universities, and correctional facilities, encouraging excellence, inspiring hope, and challenging young people to seek academic excellence and to stay drug free; and

WHEREAS, a renowned orator, Reverend Jackson has received numerous honors for his work in human and civil rights and for nonviolent social change; in October 1997, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton as "Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa"; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson married his college sweetheart Jacqueline Lavinia Brown in 1963 and is the proud father of six children: Santita Jackson, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., Jonathan Jackson, Yusef DuBois Jackson, Jacqueline Lavinia Jackson, and Ashley Laverne Jackson; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we specially recognize the many contributions and lifetime of achievement of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. for his many years of distinguished service to the good people of Tennessee and the United States of America as a humanitarian, civil rights activist, and statesman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.